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(Allah is the light of the heavens and the earth – Al-Qur'ān, XXIV:35)



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SOME LITTLE KNOWN BUT INSPIRING EXAMPLES OF COEXISTENCE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN JEWS AND MUSLIMS

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The World knows Muslims and Jews as one of the bitter enemies of each other especially due to the ongoing clashes between Israel and Palestine, paid by thousands of innocent lives from both sides. Amid this hatred and violence many stories of coexistence and cooperation occurred but little known to both sides and the World. In this paper some of these stories and peace building initiatives are presented which could invoke the inspirations of love and compassion in the hearts of both sides and could be helpful in reducing the emotions of hatred and enmity. The readers will find unexpected behaviour of humanity and cooperation from both sides in contrast to what has been widely propagated that both cannot live together peacefully.

Keywords: Muslims, Jews, Cooperation, Coexistence, Nazis, Hatred, World war.

Introduction

There is a long history of conflict and violence between Jews and Muslims in the modern period: the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is the major example and cause of it. But among the hatred and rivalry there are a few but inspiring examples of mutual cooperation and coexistence which reflect a humanistic side of the relations. This was especially so during the World War II when the Albanian Muslims not only lived with Jews but also protected them from Nazis by hiding their identities in their homes. Many times they risked their lives after the Nazis announced that whoever will harbour Jews would be killed. In this essay some of these examples